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TOP SECRET

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TOP SECRET

S U M M A R Y

GENERAL

1. Indian Ambassador is being treated discourteously by Peiping (page 3).
2. Peiping asks for representation in Ceylon to handle long-term trade (page 3).

SOVIET UNION

3. Soviet press ignores possibility of Eisenhower-Stalin meeting (page 4).

FAR EAST

4. Peiping promises North Koreans continued support in war (page 5).

SOUTHEAST ASIA

5. Magsaysay ready to accept Nacionalista nomination for Philippine presidency (page 5).

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

6. British influence in Jordan in jeopardy (page 6).

WESTERN EUROPE

7. Gaullists seen ready to support any new French government (page 6).

25X1A

GENERAL

1. Indian Ambassador is being treated discourteously by Peiping:

25X1A

[REDACTED] Chinese Communist officials in Peiping are treating the Indian Ambassador with "remote" discourtesy, according to the Secretary General of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi.

The source also states that the Chinese Communist press is conducting a "rabid" campaign, in which it is denouncing New Delhi for having diminished Peiping's prestige throughout the world by presenting the Indian truce plan for Korea.

Comment: Indian envoys in Peiping for the past two years have had more cordial relations with Chinese Communist officials than have any other non-Communist representatives. Although frequently misinterpreting Peiping's position, Indian diplomats have sometimes obtained accurate statements of its intentions, notably prior to the Chinese intervention in Korea.

While Peiping has emphatically rejected the Indian truce plan, no Chinese Communist public statement impugning the motives of its authors has been noted.

2. Peiping asks for representation in Ceylon to handle long-term trade:

25X1A

[REDACTED] The Ceylonese Food Minister on 29 December stated that in the rice-rubber long-term trade negotiations just concluded in Peiping, the Chinese insisted on representation in Ceylon, but could be persuaded to accept representation through a Ceylonese firm. He added that the Chinese demonstrated how important they considered the long-term trade pact by accepting all Ceylonese stipulations.

25X1A

Comment: It is likely that Ceylon eventually will allow Chinese trade representation at Colombo, despite the Ceylonese Prime Minister's assurance on 27 September to the contrary. Such representation will mark another success in China's campaign to promote Western disunity on East-West trade controls.

Following the Moscow Economic Conference, Peiping set up a trade mission in Berlin to negotiate directly with Western firms, and there is evidence that it plans to organize a network of such missions.

SOVIET UNION

3. Soviet press ignores possibility of Eisenhower-Stalin meeting:

25X1A

[REDACTED] As evidence of the propagandistic nature of Stalin's replies to the Reston questionnaire, the US Embassy in Moscow cites the fact that the Soviet press has emphasized the answers dealing with Soviet peaceful intentions but omitted comment on a possible Eisenhower-Stalin meeting. The original heavy play given Stalin's answers has considerably tapered off, foreign reactions to the exchange have received only passing reference, and there has been no mention of Mr. Dulles' statement.

Comment: The Peiping and Satellite press reactions have followed closely the Soviet line that the United States is solely responsible for the cold war and that conditions for peace are inherent in past Soviet proposals.

25X1A

FAR EAST

4. Peiping promises North Koreans continued support in war:

25X1A



The China Peace Committee in Peiping has sent a New Year's message to North Korean Premier Kim Il-sung stating that the "central task" of the Chinese people is "to strengthen

the struggle against American aggression and aid Korea." The statement promises that the Peiping regime will "use all its resources... to support you until a final, just and reasonable settlement" of the Korean war is achieved.

Comment: Peiping's New Year propaganda to Chinese audiences also reaffirms the Chinese commitment to North Korea's support, listing it as one of the regime's principal efforts for 1953.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

5. Magsaysay ready to accept Nacionalista nomination for Philippine presidency:

25X1A



Defense Secretary Magsaysay told the American Embassy on 30 December that so far as he was concerned "the die was cast with the Nacionalistas." They now propose to nominate him at a convention to be called for 1 March, by which time he will have resigned from the cabinet.

He explained that the Nacionalista leaders, fearing Quirino's new tactic of labeling his enemies as Communists, desire to nominate him at an early convention to obtain the protection afforded by his record. Magsaysay added that the army would support him on the Nacionalista ticket.

25X1A

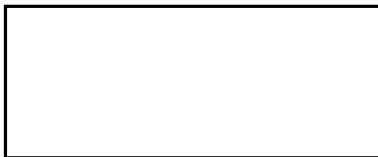
Another report from Manila states that Quirino is preparing to force Magsaysay out of the cabinet.

Comment: Philippine nominating conventions are customarily held in the late spring or summer. Magsaysay plans to propose that the Nacionalistas meet as early as 1 February instead of 1 March. This suggests that he hopes to be nominated before any shift in his fortunes causes the Nacionalistas to reconsider their commitment.

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

6. British influence in Jordan in jeopardy:

25X1A



The American Ambassador in Amman reports that strong Jordanian resentment over the recent British vote in the UN favoring direct Arab-Israeli negotiations is likely to precipitate open parliamentary debate on all aspects of Anglo-Jordanian relations. The Ambassador states that the debate scheduled for 23 December was cancelled when 17 deputies withdrew in protest against holding the discussions in secret.

Comment: Anti-British sentiment in Jordan, where British influence is stronger than in any other Arab country, will probably aggravate Britain's current problems in other parts of the area, particularly in Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

WESTERN EUROPE

7. Gaullists seen ready to support any new French government:

25X1A



On the basis of a conversation with the secretary general and the foreign affairs spokesman of the Rally of the French People, the American

25X1A

Embassy in Paris concludes that the party, though not General de Gaulle himself, will support the man chosen as the next premier.

Although opposed to the EDC treaty in its present form, these leaders consider that some of its "good" features, such as standardization of equipment, a common uniform, and perhaps even joint services, could be retained.

Comment: This is the first strong indication that the Rally will support the next government regardless of its leadership, thus giving it a broader base than the Pinay coalition.